

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-03 SP-02 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /032 W

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O 091444Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6901

INFO NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION WASHDC

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2538

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, OCLR, CA

SUBJ: EXPERIMENTAL BALLOON FLIGHTS

REF: DEPT A-3629; OTTAWA 2053, AND STATE 156738

FOR OES/SCI/SA - MORRIS

NSF FOR ASREL

1. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS' ACTION OFFICER (DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS DIV.), EXTAFF AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FROM OPERATING AGENCIES FOR PROPOSED NSBF BALOON FLIGHTS DESPITE OVERALL PREFERENCE OF GOC FOR HANDLING MATTER AS IT WAS HANDLED LAST YEAR. JULY 8 COMMENTS FROM OPERATING AGENCIES BEGAN TO COME IN AND IT NOW APPEARS THAT NEITHER MOU NOR NOTE (STATE 156738) WILL SATISFY TO OBTAIN NECESSARY CLEARANCES. THREE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE EMERGED TO DATE CONCERN FOLLOWING:

A. PARA II OF MOU OUTLINE UNDERTAKINGS ON PART OF AES. AS IN THE U.S., AN OPERATING DOMESTIC AGENCY OF THE CANADIAN GOVT CANNOT RPT NOT HANDLE FOR FOREIGN AGENCIES OR PERSONS CUSTOMS CLEARANCES, AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE RADIO FREQUENCIES, ETC. THESE MUST BE HANDLED THROUGH THE DEPT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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B. ANOTHER POINT RELATES TO ASSIGNING TO AES THE COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE GOC. IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN ENTITIES, EXTAFF CONSIDERS ITSELF THE APPROPRIATE COORDINATOR.

C. COST ESTIMATES ARE NEEDED FOR BALLOONS AND HELIUM. ARTICLE X OF MOU DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE THESE ESTIMATES. DEPT OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES WHICH MUST ACTUALLY MAKE REIMBURSEMENT UNDERSTANDABLY DESIROUS OF HAVING SOME ESTIMATE OF THESE ADDITIONAL COSTS WHICH ALL RECOGNIZE WOULD BE LARGER THAN THE \$36,000-ESTIMATE ON OPERATING COST.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: IF AUTHORIZATION IS TO BE OBTAINED IN TIME FOR FIRST FLIGHT SCHEDULED THIRD WEEK OF JULY, EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION BY IMMEDIATE CABLE FOR FOLLOWING:

A. TO REDRAFT NOTE ALONG LINES OUTLINED IN OTTAWA 2053. THIS, AS DEPT AND NSF WILL RECOGNIZE, PARALLELS FORMAT USED LAST YEAR WHICH WAS ACCEPTABLE TO GOC.

B. INCLUDE IN NOTE VERBATIM LIABILITY LANGUAGE AS SET FORTH IN PARA VIII OF MOU.

C. TO EXECUTE FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE NSF AN ANNEX TO THE ORIGINAL SIGNED MOU NOW IN EMBASSY'S POSSESSION WHICH WOULD:

(1) DELETE SUBPARAS 1, 2 AND 3 FROM PARA II OF MOU. (EMBASSY AND EXTAFF WILL FULFILL THESE FUNCTIONS).

(2) ADD ADDITIONAL COST ESTIMATES FOR BALLOONS, HELIUM AND MISCELLANEOUS ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT. (ALTHOUGH NSF HAS PROVIDED THESE ESTIMATES BY TELECON, PLEASE CONFIRM IN REPLY CABLE AT LEAST THE TOTAL FIGURES OF \$80,482 FOR AES FLIGHTS AND \$3,627 FOR CALGARY FLIGHT). JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, RESEARCH, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, BALLOONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA02538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750236-0932
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750773/aaaacmvv.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE A-3629, 75 OTTAWA 2053, 75 STATE 156738
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPERIMENTAL BALLOON FLIGHTS
TAGS: TSPA, OCLR, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006